

Aussies annihilate India



AFP, Melbourne

Australia crushed India by 122 runs in the opening Test on Thursday, destroying their vaunted batting lineup with aggressive pace to claim a decisive victory inside four days in Melbourne.

India, chasing a historically challenging 292 runs for victory, were never in the hunt after they crashed to 81 for six with the crucial loss of Sachin Tendulkar's wicket late in the middle session.

The tourists, who have yet to win a series in Australia in 64 years, were routed for 169 off 47.5 overs after Australia squeezed another 61 runs from their remaining two wickets earlier in the day.

James Pattinson led the way with four for 53 while Peter Siddle claimed the prized scalp of Tendulkar for 32 to again keep the Indian star's 100th international century on hold.

"It's fantastic to get a win against India, who we love beating, and put the disappointment of the New Zealand loss in Hobart behind us," said Pattinson, who won his second man-of-the-match award in his three Tests.

India were always up against it as they faced up to the highest fourth-innings run chase in almost 60 years at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

South Africa were the last team to achieve a higher fourth-innings target of 297 for four in beating Australia at the MCG in 1953.

"We should have been able to chase 300 with the kind of batting we've got, so another bad start to a Test series," said captain MS Dhoni after India's fifth consecutive loss in an away Test.

It was a bowlers' Test match with no batsman

scoring a century. Australian Hussey came the closest with 89 in the second innings.

Australia's pace trio Pattinson, Ben Hilfenhaus and Siddle maintained a full line and length and never let up on the Indian batsmen.

India, 24 for one at lunch after losing Virender Sehwag for seven, unravelled in the middle session with five wickets tumbling for 93 runs.

Gautam Gambhir fell to

scoring two in the first innings.

Virat Kohli was out first ball, leg before wicket to Hilfenhaus with Tendulkar fast running out of batting partners.

But Tendulkar was next to go, slicing Siddle to Hussey in the gully for 32. With his departure India's chances dipped considerably, silencing the "Swarmy Army" India supporters and prompting many to leave the ground.

Tendulkar now takes his

a gentle catch to Cowan close-in for 13.

Pattinson bowled Dhoni for 23 and Umesh Yadav was the last wicket to fall, caught athletically on the boundary by David Warner off spinner Nathan Lyon for 21, with Ishant Sharma six not out.

India began the day poorly when Australia added 61 runs for their last two wickets off 16.3 overs to exasperate the tourists' bowlers.

Hussey had a charmed life before he went 11 short of a century, and Pattinson remained unbeaten on 37 not out as he put on 43 runs for the last wicket before Hilfenhaus was the last man out for 14.

SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes Australia's first and second innings and India's first and second innings.

India: Second innings Gambhir c Ponting b Siddle 13 Sehwag c Hussey b Hilfenhaus 7 Dravid b Pattinson 10 Tendulkar c Hussey b Siddle 32 Laxman c Cowan b Pattinson 0 Kohli lbw b Hilfenhaus 0 Dhoni b Pattinson 23 Ashwin c Cowan b Siddle 30 Zaheer c Cowan b Pattinson 6 Sharma not out 13 Yadav c Warner b Lyon 21 Extras: (lb-10, w-2, nb-1) 13 Total: (All out in 47.5 overs) 169 Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-39, 3-58, 4-68, 5-69, 6-81, 7-117, 8-141, 9-142

Nat'l kabaddi semis today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Police, Tangail, Bangladesh Army and BGB reached the semifinals of the Meizan National Kabaddi Championship yesterday.

Police defeated Pirojpur by 57-15 points while Army won both of their matches, by 41-17 points against Bangladesh Navy and by 35-20 against Khulna, confirming their spots in the semifinals. Tangail ensured their passage with a 33-19 pinots win over Moulvibazar while BGB got through by beating Bogra 42-20.

BGB emerged Ka Group champions to set up a semifinal clash against Gha Group champions Army while Police became Kha Group champions to play against Ga Group champions Tangail in the second semifinal today.

Nat'l b'ball from tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The Citycell 25th National Basketball Championship begins at the Dhanmondi Basketball Gymnasium tomorrow.

The tournament comprises of 20 teams: Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, Border Guard Bangladesh, Khulna, Bangladesh Police, Dhaka, Shakti, Narsingdi, Jessore, Chaddpur, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Comilla, Rangpur, Kushtia, Narayanganj, Bangladesh Biman, BKSP and Gazipur.

Schools football

FROM PAGE 16 Federation (BFF), who could not control a hundred unexpected persons inside the ground. The BFF ground committee marked the lines of the ground just before the start of the opening ceremony. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid inaugurated the meet while State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarker, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Youth and Sports Jahid Ahsan Russell, BFF President Kazi Salahuddin and Chairman of Bangladesh Football Federation's School Committee Mahfuzur Rahman were among others present.

Pakistan eye fresh start



REUTERS, Karachi

Interim Pakistan coach Mohsin Khan said his team were hoping for a 'fresh start' when they take on England for the first time since the spot-fixing scandal next month.

The former Test opener took temporary charge of the team after Waqar Younis quit for personal reasons in September and has been retained for next month's Test and one-day series against England in the United Arab Emirates.

"We know the two teams will play for the first time since the spot-fixing scandal last year in England," Mohsin said.

"We have seen the negative comments in the British media. But we just want to focus on playing a positive and good series."

Salman Butt, Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif were jailed in London last month for spot-fixing elements of a test match against England at Lord's in 2010.

Although the most significant, the scandal was not the only controversy surrounding Tests between the two countries in recent years.

In 2006, Pakistan forfeited a Test at the Oval after umpires Darrell Hair and Billy Doctrove penalised them for ball-tampering, leading to tension between the two cricket boards.

The ICC adjudicator later cleared Pakistan of the ball tampering charges but banned former captain Inzamamul Haq for misconduct.

Khan, who has led Pakistan to series wins over Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in his temporary role, was confident relations between the players would remain cordial even if he believes strong officiating will be necessary.

"The roles of the referee and umpires will be significant," he added. "Whatever has happened in the past is history. We are looking ahead now. For us it is a fresh start."

"We want to prove ourselves with our performances that is all. The rest is history."

Khan also defended the recall of left arm pacer Wahab Riaz, insisting all players considered for selection had been cleared to play by the Pakistan board.

Wahab, whose name was mentioned in court during the spot-fixing trial in London but has never been charged with an offence, had not played international cricket for six months before his recall for the England series.

'Indian stars flopped'



AFP, Melbourne

Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni said India's big-name batsmen flopped as his team came up well short in their run chase to comprehensively lose the opening Test to Australia in Melbourne on Thursday.

Set an imposing 292 runs for victory, India fell apart to finish all out for 169 off 47.5 overs late on the fourth day.

It was India's fifth consecutive loss in away Tests and conjured memories of their wretched series in England earlier this year when they relinquished their top ranking in a 4-0 thrashing.

Sachin Tendulkar was India's top scorer with 73 in the first innings and just 32 in the second.

Dhoni, who now has the task of lifting his team of batting superstars for next week's second Test in Sydney, said the tourists had to show more consistency to get back into the four-Test series.

"Our batting flopped in both the innings. We have to show more consistency," Dhoni said after the defeat.

"We need to score more runs. Otherwise, it would be very difficult for us to win. We need to apply ourselves a lot more and if we do that I have no doubt that we would come back strongly."

It was a miserable effort Thursday from the Indian batsmen with Virender Sehwag (7), Gautam Gambhir (13), Rahul Dravid (10), VVS Laxman (1) and Virat Kohli (0) showing little

appetite for the fight.

Australia converted a 51-run innings lead into a challenging 291 advantage heading into the fourth innings and India were soon backpedalling, left at 81 for six by Tendulkar's crucial dismissal in the 27th over.

"We thought if we could get them out for 240 or 250-odd runs that's a very gettable score but I felt 290-odd runs was also a score we should have achieved, the wicket was pretty good," Dhoni said.

"It's not like there was too much wear and tear in the wicket."

But Dhoni was not concerned by his star batsmen's feeble showing and expected a better effort at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

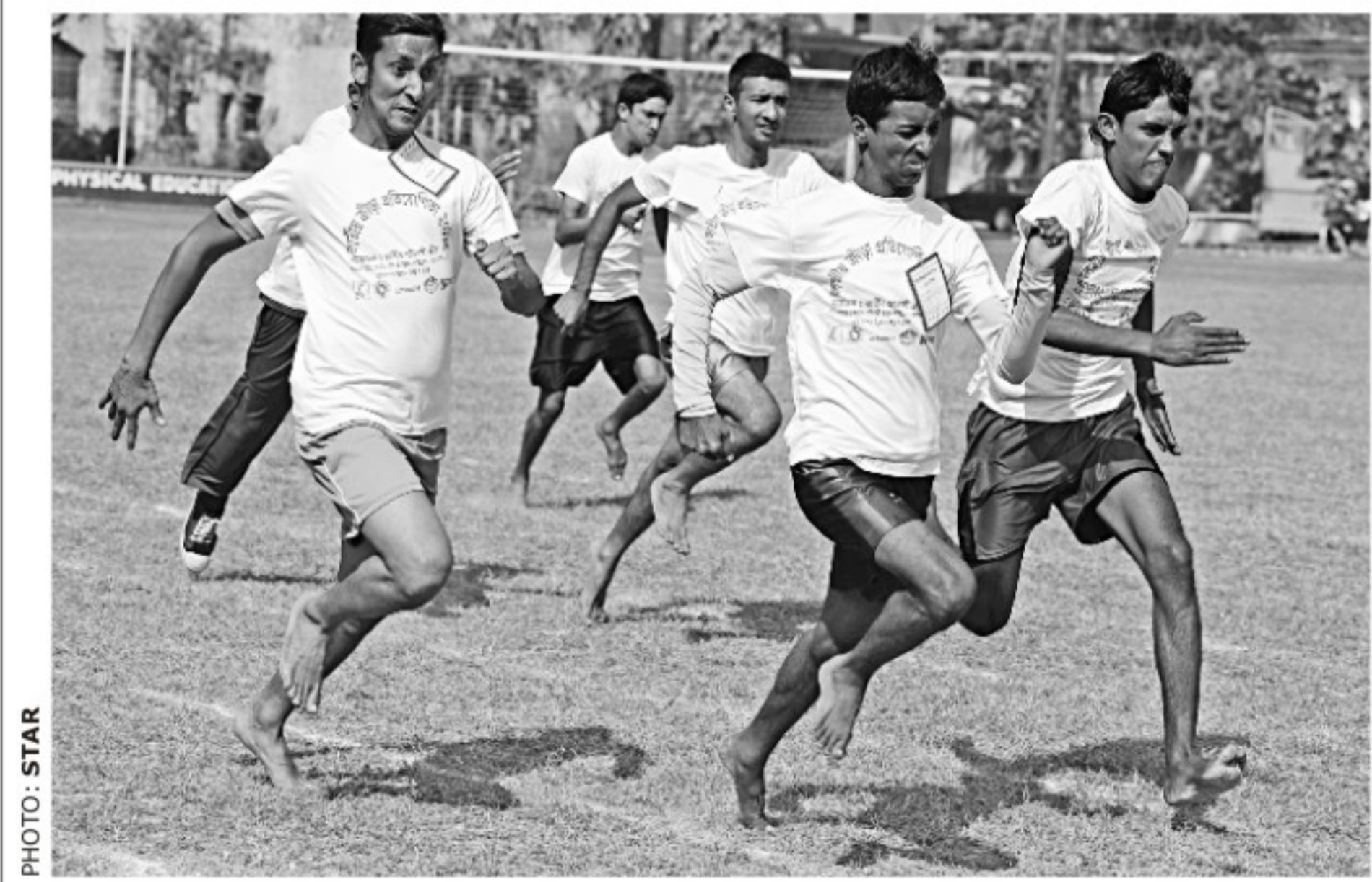
"They are very experienced batsmen," he said. "You have to give credit to Australia bowlers for the way they bowled. They kept a nagging line outside the off-stump and that's why they got us."

"Our bowlers brought us back in to the game. We were short by 50-odd runs in the first innings. Their lower-order scored some runs, if we had got them (out) earlier, we would have had 50-60 runs less to chase."

"We need to find way to get their lower order out cheaply."

India have yet to win a series in Australia after nine previous tours over 64 years.

Test cricket's greatest runscorer Tendulkar will get another chance to claim his elusive 100th Test and ODI century in Sydney, where he has scored three hundreds including an unbeaten 241, and averages 221.33 in seven innings.



Disabled athletes are engaged in a foot race during the Annual National Disabled Sports Competition at the Physical Training College Ground in Mohammadpur yesterday.

Giants upstaged

FROM PAGE 16 guided Sheikh Jamal to a comfortable win against the Motijheel outfit as they scored 204 for five in 47.2 overs in reply to Mohammedan's 201 all out in 49.4 overs.

Deepak scored 80 off 96 balls with eight fours and two sixes while Shamsur contributed 60 off 100 deliveries, an innings that featured five fours and a six.

Earlier, pacer Dollar Mahmud triggered an early collapse in the Mohammedan tent taking three wickets, after which Arafat Sunny and Sohrawardi Shuvo picked up two wickets each to wrap up Mohammedan's innings.

Umar Amin top scored with 59 off 79 balls with four boundaries and a six before falling victim of a run-out.

GAZI TANK-PRIME DOLESHWAR

After the early departure of opener Tajul Islam and one-day batsman Shahriar Nafees, Prime Doleshwar thrived on two half centuries from Kamran Akmal (52) and Nadif Chowdhury (72) to put up a fighting total of 232 for nine in their share of 50 overs.

New ball bowler Sami was the most successful bowler for Gazi Tank, taking four wickets for 31 runs in his 10-over quota.

In reply, Gazi Tank reached the target of 233 for the loss of five wickets in 48.3 overs thanks to Asif Ahmed (74) and Ayub Dogar (56).

Nasir Hossain was the other notable scorer with 46 runs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

BROTHERS: 224-7 in 50 overs (Nazimuddin 42, Nafis 22, Aftab 22, Tushar 15, Dhiman 22, Taposh 47 not out, Razzak 38 not out; Riyad 2-35, Sajib 2-21).

ABAHANI: 195 all out in 46.2 overs (Rabbi 16, Anamul 25, Mithun 50, Farhad 29, Narendar 27, Sunny 26 not out; Sohai 2-35, Taposh 2-25, Razzak 2-26, Tushar 2-21).

Result: Brothers won by 29 runs. MOHAMMEDAN: 201 all out

in 49.4 overs (Imtiaz 20, Umar 59, Rajin 32, Hamdul 24, Delwar 26 not out; Dollar 3-56, Arafat 2-27).

SHEIKH JAMAL: 204-5 in 47.2 overs (Deepak 80, Shamsur 60, Mushfiqur 17, Jehan Mubarak 20 not out; Azam 2-32, Amitav 2-42)

Result: Sheikh Jamal won by five wickets.

PRIME DOLESHWAR: 232-9 in 50 overs (Mizanur 20, Akmal 52, Nadif 72, Sahagir 24; Sami 4-31).

GAZI TANK: 233-5 in 48.3 overs (Asif 74, Nasir 46, Ayub 56, Kapali 32 not out; Nazmul 2-38)

Result: Gazi Tank won by five wickets.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

11x11 crossword grid with numbers indicating starting positions for clues.

CRYPTOQUIP

D N B E J B V Q V Z P M S Q L N A M V Z C S E M H K B N C X Q V P V N D L M P Z W S D C N D V D S X M A Q J P Y S H N P Y V D Z : W S Z P V D - N M A Z .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COMIC OPERA ABOUT SOME BUCCANEERS' ATONEMENT FOR THEIR SINS: "THE PIRATES OF PENANCE."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals E

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Invitation for Tenders (Amendment) for Central Air Conditioning System (HVAC) for six-storied Savar Cantonment Super Market.